



Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) Policy

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Introduction and Aims

Our Mission:

At St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School the children are at the heart of our vision. We work together so that all individuals are confident and successful lifelong learners. We tell a joyful Christian story to grow the Kingdom of God and build our capacity for good.

Our Aims:

- To provide access to a broad, balanced, creative, and innovative curriculum, where well-being, strengths and a sense of citizenship are fostered and developed.
- To empower ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- To nurture healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- To inspire enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
- To form ethical, informed learners who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- To explore learning in a variety of ways both indoors and outdoors and with connection to the wider community.
- To create a communal family in which everyone feels welcomed, included and safe.
- To be an extension of the church and to nurture Christian values.



Our Motto:

Respect - Believe - Achieve

Rationale

At St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School, we recognise that behaviour is a form of communication, and as such we respond in a sensitive way using restorative approaches, and 'choices and consequences'. This policy sets out the framework for a clear and consistent approach to promoting positive relationships and supporting pupils to develop their skills, understanding and engagement with school. Staff are trained in the ACEs and Trauma Informed Schools approach. We are strongly committed to a positive, working relationship between home and school. We work in partnership with Parents to support individual children and the wider school community.

RVE at St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School forms part of the Humanities area of learning. Religion, values and ethics is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RVE.

As a voluntary aided school, we follow the Church in Wales guidance [Designing your Curriculum Guidance - The Church in Wales](#) whilst also having regard for the locally agreed syllabus [Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics \(RVE\) guidance](#).

Wales has a rich and distinctive culture with its own language, customs, festivals, music and politics. It is a culture in which many diverse views co-exist within a society bound by the common values of democracy and the rule of law. This diversity creates a dynamic and vibrant society, which reflects modern Welsh life where all social, cultural, religious and spiritual beliefs are examined, and those who hold them are respected and treated equally.

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary is co-educational day school, dating from 1858 and housed in the present open-plan building since 1971. The school occupies a site to the west of Dinas Powys. The original school was built in the village centre by the National Society for Religious Education. By the 1960's the old building had become overcrowded so the present site was found and the school was opened in 1971. At St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School the children are at the heart of our vision. We work together so that all individuals are confident and successful lifelong learners and build their capacity for good. We welcome children of all religious and spiritual groups to the school.

The celebration and underpinning of this diversity is fundamental to the ethos of St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School and is embedded in all aspects of the curriculum through rich learning experiences. Throughout its history Wales has welcomed people of different faiths and from different cultures, and via its teaching of the subject of religion, values and ethics, St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School supports an approach which promotes the understanding of and respect for all religions, beliefs and non-religious world views, thus reflecting the diversity that exists in our forward-looking Welsh society.

Our approach celebrates a creative, compassionate education that embraces and empowers, ensuring that children and young people are supported to engage with matters of "purpose, faith and belief" and to fulfil their roles as valued members of society ready to play a full part in life and work as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School works in partnership with the Church in Wales and Llandaff diocese.

RVE and the Curriculum for Wales

RVE is situated within the Humanities Area and incorporates a range of disciplinary approaches that can be used by learners to engage critically with a broad range of religious and non-religious concepts. There are also strong relationships between RVE and the other disciplines within Humanities as well as with other Areas.

Concepts are important in RVE because they are central ideas that help learners to make sense of and interpret human experience, the natural world and their own place within it. Learners will have opportunities to explore RVE concepts through a variety of sub lenses:

- Search for meaning and purpose: How people respond to the deeper questions of life in order to understand the human condition.
- The natural world and living things: How and why people show concern and responsibility for the world and experience awe and wonder in nature.

- Identity and belonging: What makes us who we are as people, communities and citizens living in a diverse world.
- Authority and influence: How and why different types of authority influence people's lives.
- Relationships and responsibility: How people live together and why developing healthy relationships is important.
- Values and ethics: How and why people make moral choices and how this influences their actions.
- The journey of life: What people experience as part of the journey of life and how these experiences are acknowledged.

RVE in the Curriculum for Wales is objective, critical and pluralistic, both in content and pedagogy and is not about making learners 'religious' or 'non-religious'. The teaching of RVE at St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School promotes openness, impartiality, and respect for others.

Time Allocation

A minimum of 5% and up to 10% of curriculum time is designated to RVE. This is equivalent to 1 hour 15 minutes per week but will not always take place as a discrete lesson.

Teaching and Learning

Here at St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School discrete RVE lessons are taught weekly. A broad range of religious and non-religious concepts including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Humanism and Atheism are examined. However, the integrated, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of the statements of what matters, together with cross-cutting themes, means that there are rich opportunities to include a thematic approach to RVE throughout the use of Curriculum Maestro.

Spirituality

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School uses the Church in Wales spirituality framework to plan opportunities for spiritual development.

We focus on four aspects: self, others, beauty and questions about something beyond the ordinary. This is more fully explained in the framework below.

Self: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of self, being aware of the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual's perception of themselves as a unique human being. Spiritual learners reflect on the relationship that they have with their sense of being a unique person.

Others: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of others, showing a growing empathy, concern and compassion for how to treat others. Spiritual learners reflect on how their values and principles affect their relationships with others.

Beauty: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative world, developing a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. Spiritual learners explore their understanding of beauty and the effect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world.

Beyond: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of the beyond, developing a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday.

Resources and Professional Development

Here at St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School we use [Understanding Christianity](#) as our main resource to support the teaching of Christianity. A range of other resources are used to enhance the teaching of other faiths [RE Today: School Support & Resources for Religious Education](#) and non-religious philosophical convictions [Understanding Humanism](#). Where possible RVE leads attend training and are part of networks that disseminate good practice [Schools of Sanctuary](#), Christianity as a Global World Faith and [Christian Aid](#).

Links to our church

St Andrew Major Church in Wales Primary School has a close and special relationship with the former Parish of St Andrew's Major, Dinas Powys www.stpeter.dinas.powys.org.uk. St Andrew's Church in Wales Primary School retains its close links with the parish, church and community. The Parish and school join together throughout the year to celebrate particular festivals and occasions such as Harvest Festival, Advent and the Leavers' service in July. Individual classes also contribute to the monthly service. In addition to this there is a Family Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month at St Peter's Church at 10.30am. Rector A. James takes worship in school and the children often visit the church for worship and to support the RVE curriculum being taught.

Visits and Visitors

At St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School we encourage visitors to our school in line with our visitor's policy. We visit places of worship in the immediate vicinity of the school, where faith leaders and other members of the community meet with children and are involved in the teaching of RVE. In addition, in some classes, we offer the opportunity to visit different places of worship, Islam - [Dar Ul Isra](#), Judaism - [Cardiff Reform Synagogue](#), Multi Faith - [Faithful Butetown](#), Hinduism - [School Visits - Cardiff Mandir](#), Sikhi - Sikh Gurdwara.

We understand the importance of opportunities to research other faith and belief groups including those who hold non-religious philosophical convictions, that are represented locally and across Wales, as well as sacred places and spaces, past and present.

Assessment

In order to develop a shared understanding of progression in relation to RVE, St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School follows the 'learning journey' for each sub lens provided by [Designing your Curriculum Guidance - The Church in Wales](#).

These learning journeys illustrate how a learner may develop their understanding of concepts in RVE through the various interconnected sub lenses, and are useful when used alongside the descriptions of learning for the Humanities.

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School annual reports to parents covers progress in RVE and areas to support improvement.

Monitoring

The RVE lead in partnership with the senior leadership team is responsible for monitoring standards of teaching and learning. The link governor is responsible for feeding back to the governing body.

RVE is inspected under the Gwella section 50 framework. Our latest Section 50 Inspection report can be found on our website.

RVE LEAD: Beth Squire-Shields

LINK GOVERNOR: Father Andrew James